



Sunflowers Out Of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294417
Inspection date	15 February 2006
Inspector	Mandy Black
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Registered person	Warnes Nurseries Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Sunflowers Out of School Club was registered in October 2004. It is privately owned and is located in a temporary classroom within Broomfield School in Northallerton. Warnes Nurseries Northallerton Ltd also own two nurseries and another out of school facility, located in Northallerton and Pateley Bridge, in North Yorkshire. The premises has toilet and kitchen facilities and access to outdoor play within the school grounds.

The out of school club serves children from the local community, providing care for a maximum of 20 children aged from 4 to 8 years; care is also provided for children up to 11 years. There are currently 43 children on roll. The club supports children with

special educational needs. There are no children attending who have English as a additional language.

There are two members of staff working with the children, of whom both are qualified. Sessions currently run on weekday afternoons from 15.15 to 18.00 during term time and from 08.00 to 18.00 during school holidays. A delivery and collection service is provided for those children attending Broomfield School and Sacred Heart RC School; children attending other local schools may attend as long as parents make their own arrangements.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are suitably nourished and have good access to drinks of water or milk, which are available in accessible jugs at all times. A substantial choice is offered to children at snack time, which includes fresh fruit such as grapes and banana, toast, cheese, ham and yoghurts. This actively supports children's good health, but children are not learning effectively about healthy living. For example, their current topic is eating healthily but no reference is made to food at snack time, there is no discussion about what they are eating or if it is good for you.

A well implemented sickness policy supports children's health. Plenty of written information is provided in the prospectus for parents, about the importance of protecting the health of all children and the staff. Accident records meet requirements but children's records do not include any written parental consent to seek emergency medical help, which may pose a risk to their well being. Children have an awareness of simple good health and hygiene practices. For example, all children wash their hands prior to eating snack and they are also actively encouraged to flush the chain and wash their hands after using the toilet.

All children enjoy frequent outdoor physical activity and are able to use the school playground at every session. They help themselves freely from a good range of outdoor equipment, which includes skipping ropes, badminton racquets, bats and balls; they are very active, run about enthusiastically and play team games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

A safe indoor and outdoor environment is provided for children with a magnet type locking system on door, which is opened by staff only. Children receive plenty of information about the danger of letting strangers in and not to open door themselves, which encourages them to take responsibility for their own safety. A password system is in place to be used if unfamiliar adults are collecting children instead of their parents, to further safeguard children's welfare. The playground is used frequently and children are always closely supervised by a staff member, in line with their recently tightened up procedures, relating to the importance of maintaining

children's outdoor safety.

Attractive displays of children's art work ensures that the environment is welcoming, and provides children with a sense of ownership of the club. Children use suitable and safe equipment; all resources are clean, well organised and stored in labelled storage boxes to encourage them to self-select independently.

Children are well protected because staff understand their role in child protection, they can clearly explain the action they would take and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children form positive relationships, which is well demonstrated during the very social snack time, with most children participating in lively conversation about hobbies and their families. They are very confident and enthusiastic as they talk about the forthcoming bring and buy sale at school, and what they may sell and why.

Staff interact very well with the children and ask lots of questions to encourage them to use their imagination and to extend their play. For example, in the role play travel agents, children use their initiative and prior knowledge successfully, and staff encourage them to look at different countries in brochures to book a holiday. Children show great interest in all they do and use their imagination well as they make a range of foods with the Play-Doh. They really enjoy the role play hairdressers and staff become willing customers, allowing children to have fun creating imaginative hairstyles. Lego is immensely popular and several children spend a lot of time designing and responding to the challenge of making more intricate models.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make choices and take decisions throughout the session because the free play environment supports this well. A very good range of activities are presented invitingly and appeal to children's interests and ideas. They develop self-esteem and respect for others because they value each others' work. For example, Lego models and Play-Doh creations are allowed to be placed out of reach for others to admire.

Children understand responsible behaviour and behave well; incidents are dealt with sensitively by staff, using appropriate strategies. This includes the 10 minute rota system used for taking turns on the play station, which enables children to learn about the importance of sharing, taking turns and to become aware of the needs of others.

Warm and friendly relationships with parents have been established and good verbal communications ensure that staff are sufficiently informed to effectively meet children's individual needs. The complaints policy has been updated to reflect all recent changes in registration requirements, however, a complaints record has not

yet been introduced.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are currently well protected and cared for by staff who are suitably qualified and vetted, but the club is still working towards the appointment of a permanent manager who is fully conversant with the requirements of the National Standards. A robust recruitment policy, which meets new registration requirements, is not yet in place.

Staff have a high regard for the well-being of all children and are working hard to address some previous issues of concern, in particular, supervision and safety of children. Children are well supported and adult-child ratios are effectively maintained. For instance, staff are well deployed; one is outdoors with a group of children, whilst another staff member remains indoors and oversees all activities successfully. Most policies and procedures work in practice to promote outcomes for children, most documentation is in good order and stored with regard for confidentiality. The attendance register includes children's full details but does not include times of arrival and departure for children, although it does for staff members. Therefore a requirement is only partially met. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 2: Organisation and Standard 6: Safety. The complaint related to there being insufficient staff caring for children, a lack of contingency plan to deal with these situations, the care of children over eight years having an adverse effect on the care of the younger children, and a lack of adult supervision during outdoor play. Ofsted investigated the concerns raised in August 2005 and made a number of actions to improve. Another visit was made in December 2005 to check that actions had been satisfactorily addressed which they had, and the case was closed. The provider remains qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- improve the system of recording attendance; provide a complaints record and devise robust vetting procedures to ensure the suitability of staff members, in order to meet the new registration requirements.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk